

Review

Art and Architecture

Middle Ages in Europe

4 MAJOR SHIFTS OCCURRED THAT HAD EFFECTS ON WESTERN CULTURE

- ◆ **Cultural leadership moved north from the Mediterranean to France, Germany and British Isles**
- ◆ **Christianity triumphed over paganism and barbarism**
- ◆ **Emphasis shifted from the here and now to afterlife (fear of Hell)**
- ◆ **A shift in the body - seen previously as beautiful to a body as corrupt**

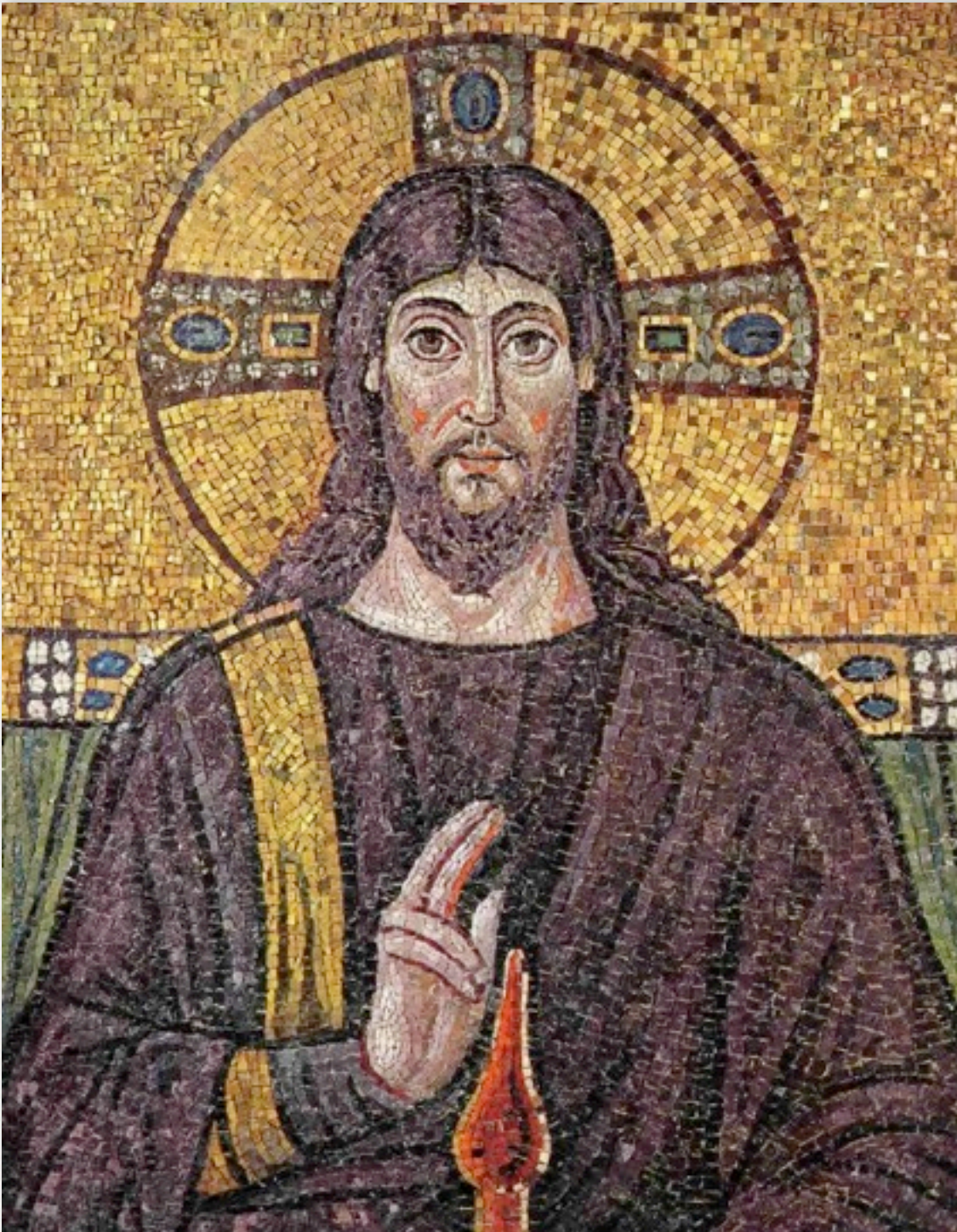


ART WAS THE SERVANT OF THE CHURCH IN BYZANTINE EMPIRE

- ◆ **Nudes forbidden**
- ◆ **Bodies often misrepresented
correct anatomy and
proportion**
- ◆ **Lost Greek value of balance
between body and mind**
- ◆ **Interested in soul**
- ◆ **Wanted to attract and inspire
new believers**



BYZANTINE MOSAICS



- **Intended to help share the new religion**
- **Often depicted Christ as teacher**
- **Human figures are flat, stiff, symmetrically placed.**
- **Almond-shaped faces, solemn expressions, no movement**

HAGIA SOPHIA

CONSTANTINOPLE (ISTANBUL, TURKEY) 532-37



- **Nearly 3 football fields long, this church combined Roman rectangular basilica layout with a huge central dome**
- **A church, later converted into a mosque**
- **Masterpiece of Byzantine architecture**

ROMANESQUE



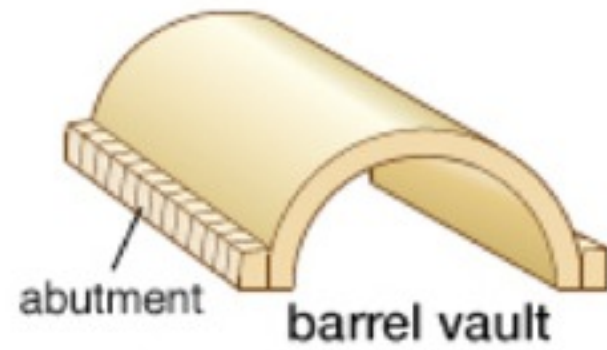
South transept of Tournai Cathedral, Belgium

ROMANESQUE ART: STORIES IN STONE

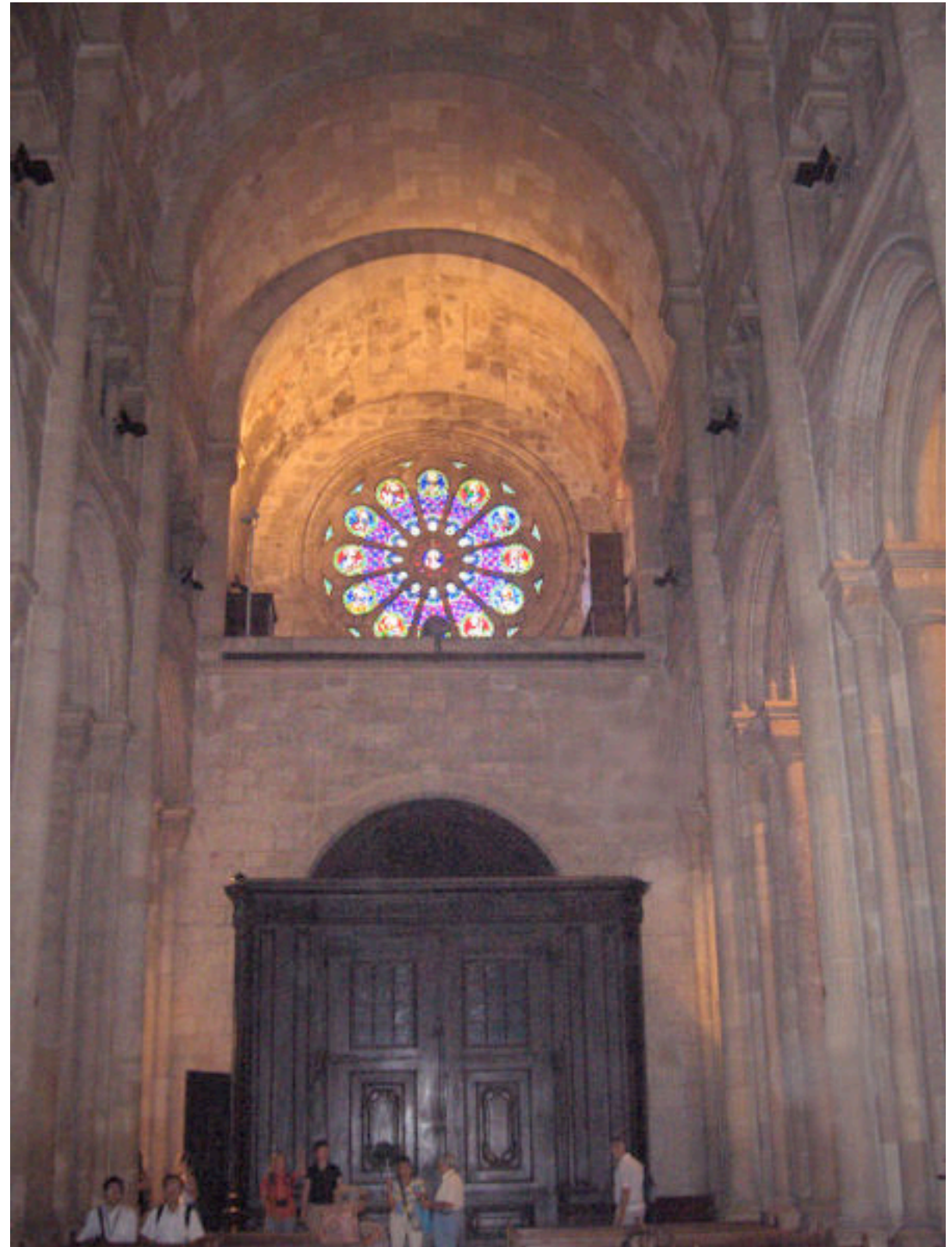


- **Romanesque: builders borrowed elements from Roman architecture such as round arches and columns**
- **Roman roofs were timber and prone to fire, so builders started to use the vault system so roof could be made of stone**
- **Exterior of buildings rather plain**
- **Sculptures taught stories to the illiterate**

Barrel vault



Cloaca Maxima, Rome



Cathedral of Lisbon, Portugal

Groin vault



Basilica Palladiana, Vicenza, Italy

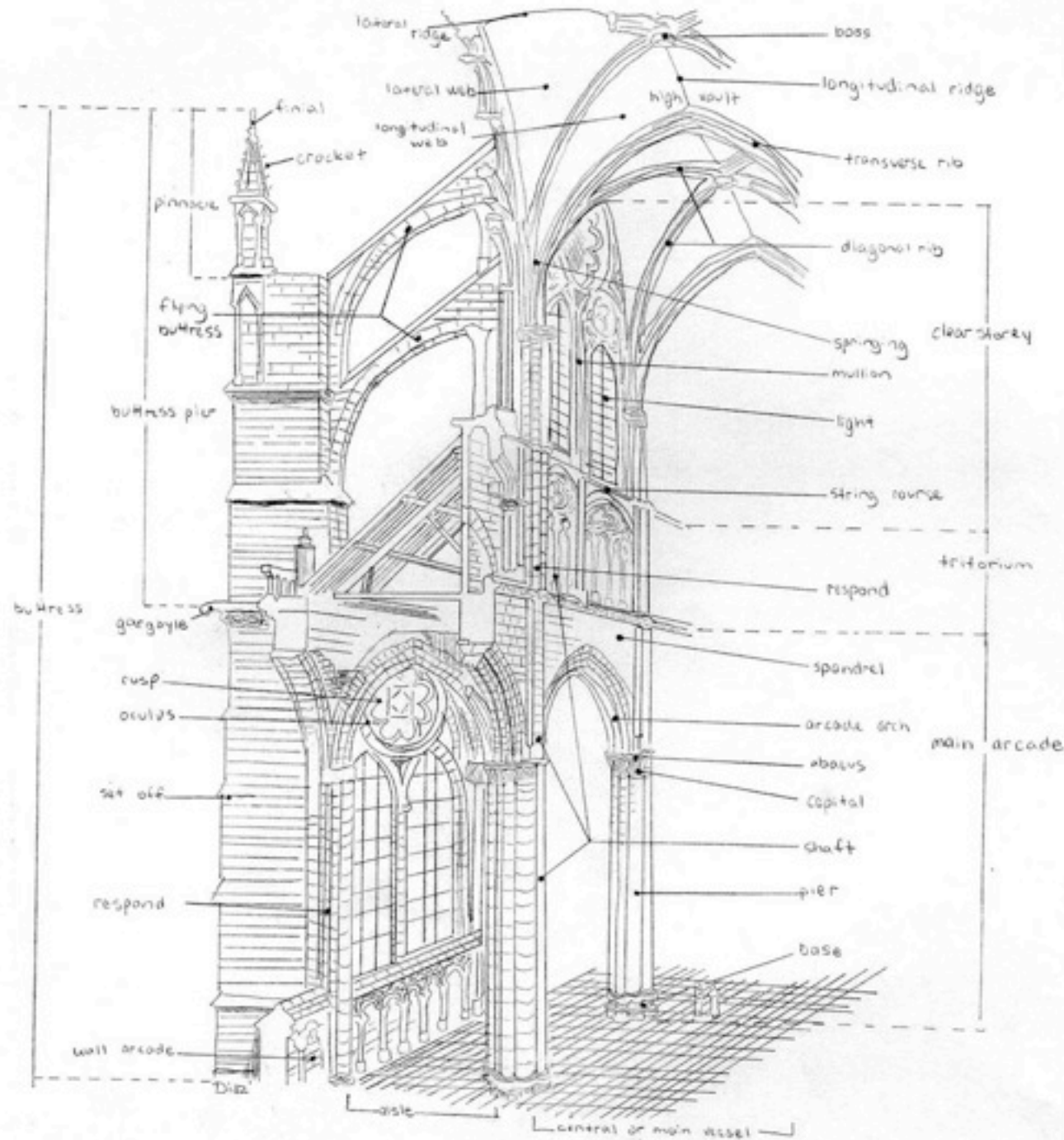
ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS



- **With hordes of pillagers looting and razing cities of the former Roman empire, monasteries were all that stood between Western Europe and total chaos**
- **Vellum (calfskin) or parchment (lambskin) were decorated lavishly**
- **These manuscripts were the only form of books in existence until printing press developed in 15th century**



GOTHIC BUILDING BLOCKS

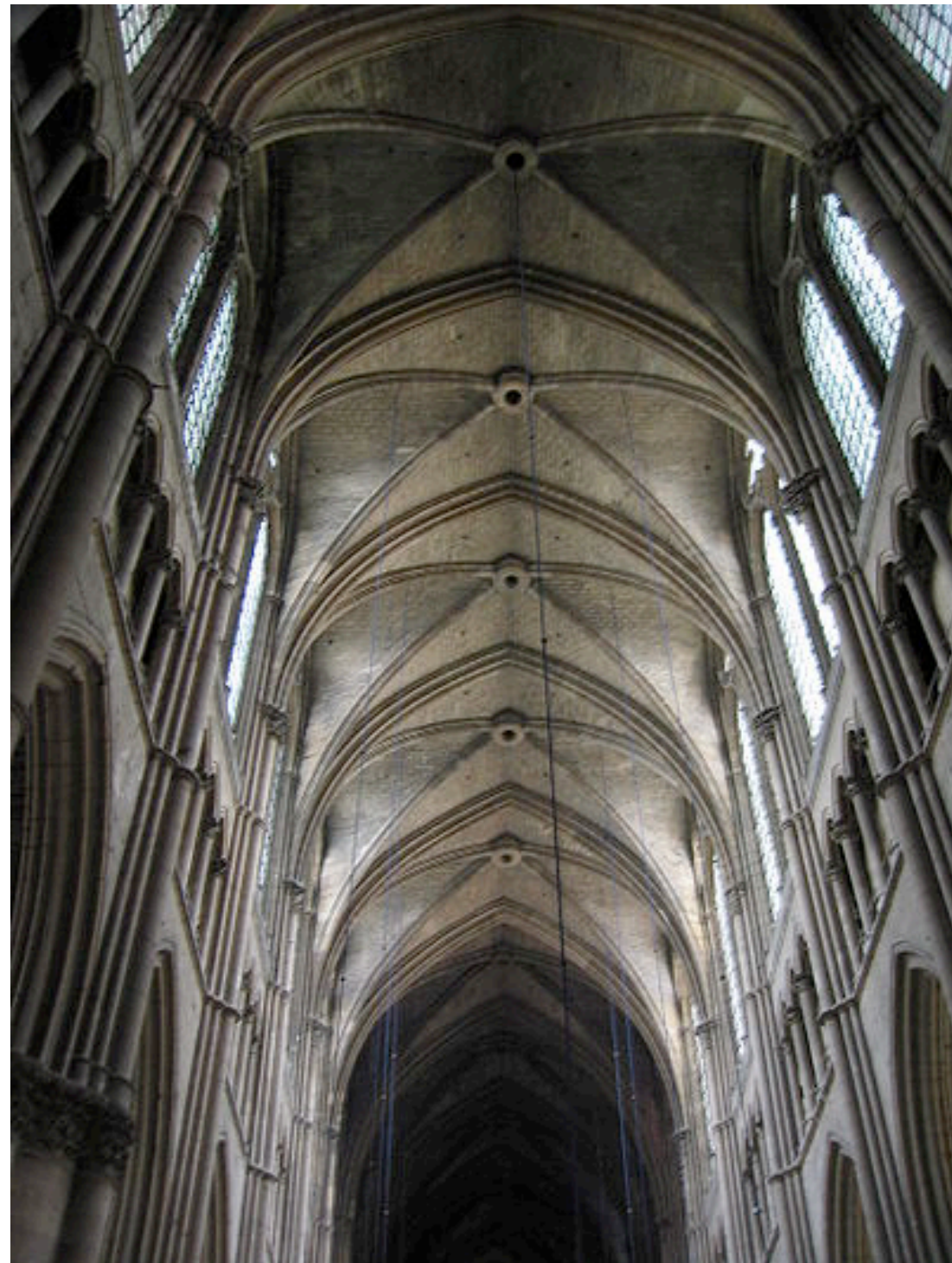
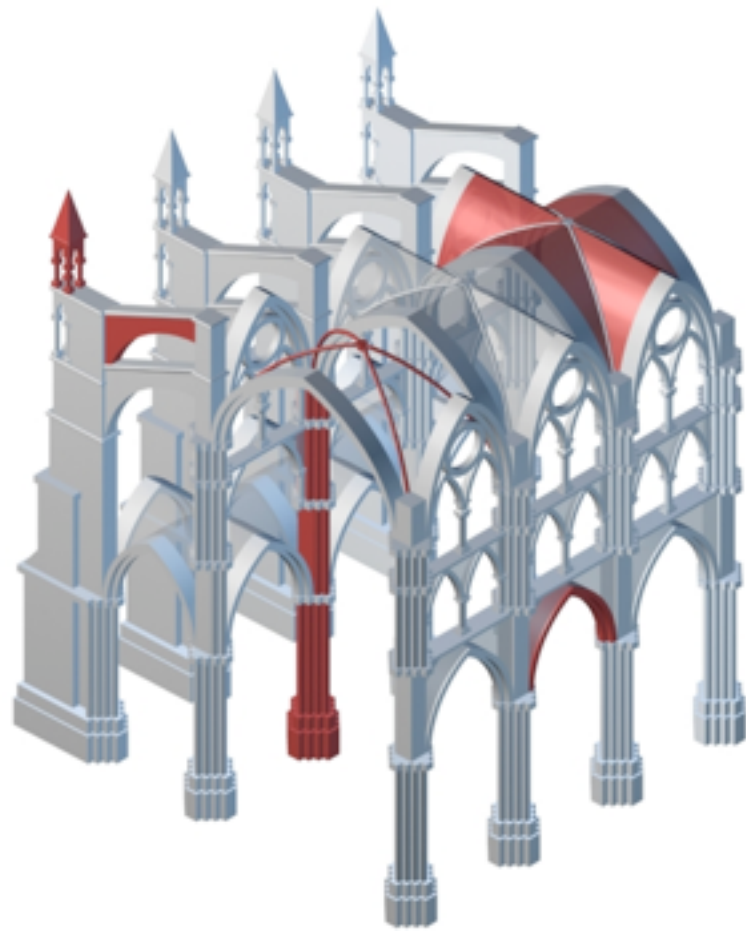


- The chief forms of inspiration in Gothic cathedrals were sculpture, stained glass and tapestries

GOTHIC

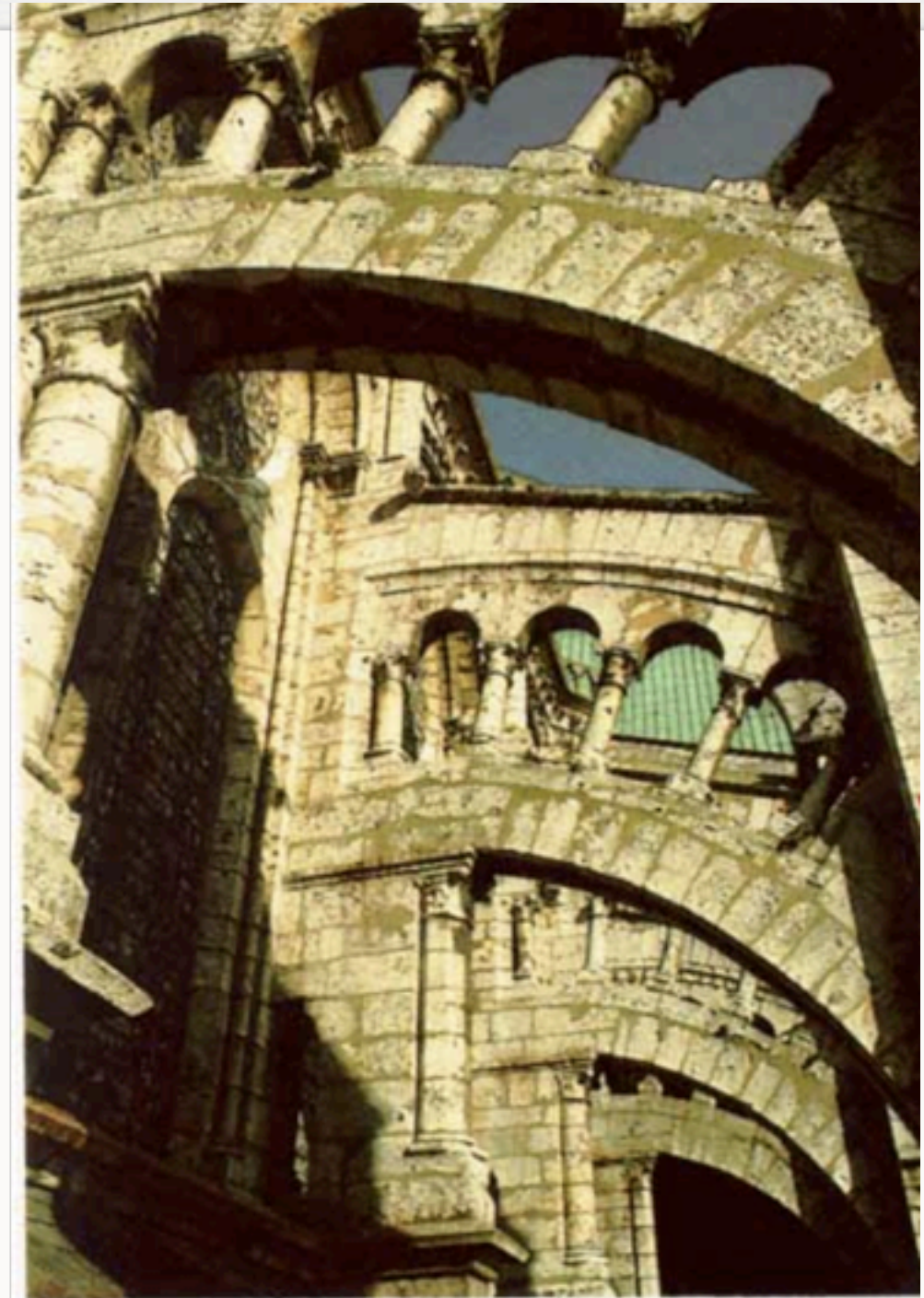
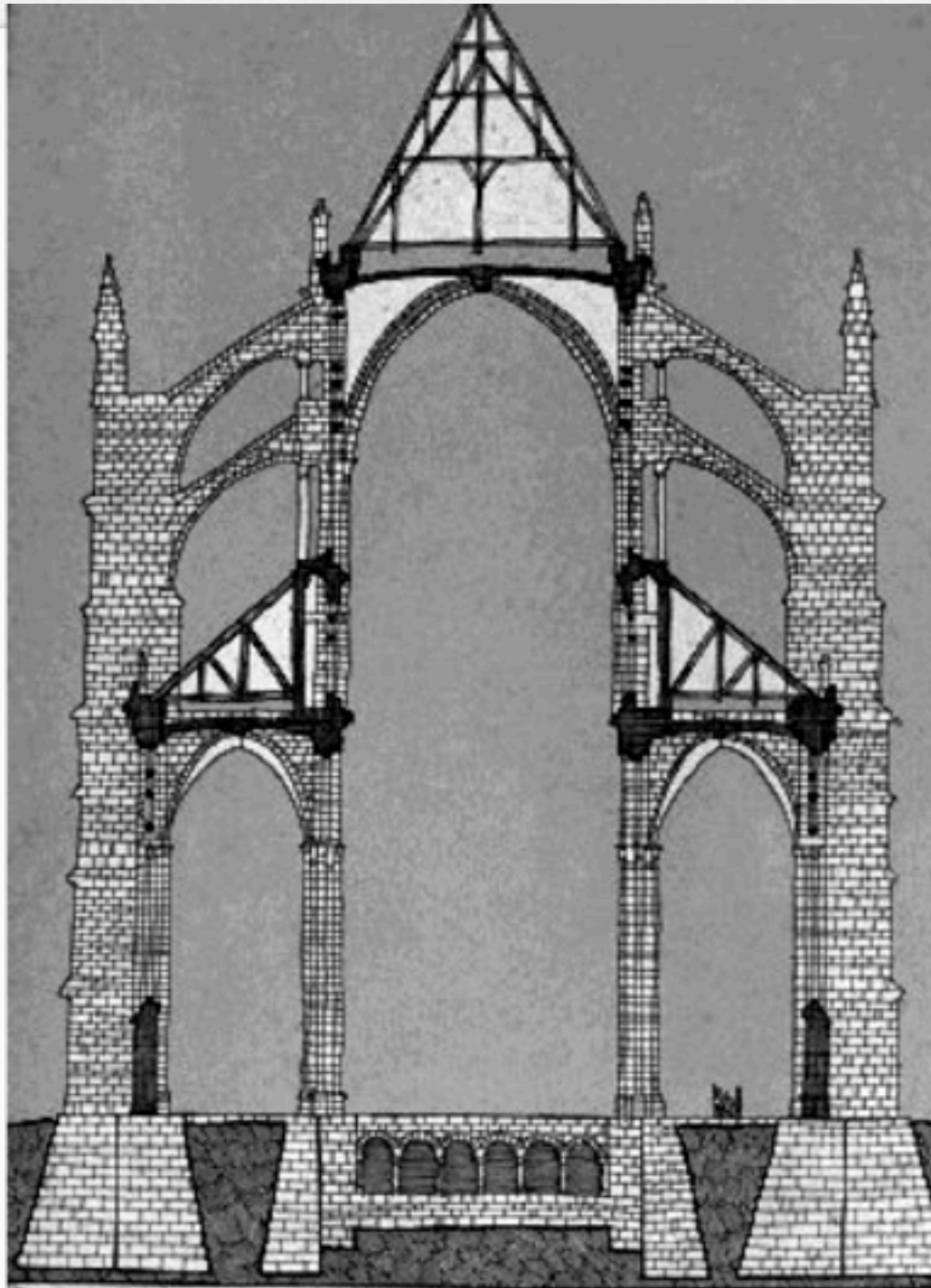


Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris



Reims Cathedral

FLYING BUTTRESSES



FLYING BUTTRESSES



REIMS CATHEDRAL

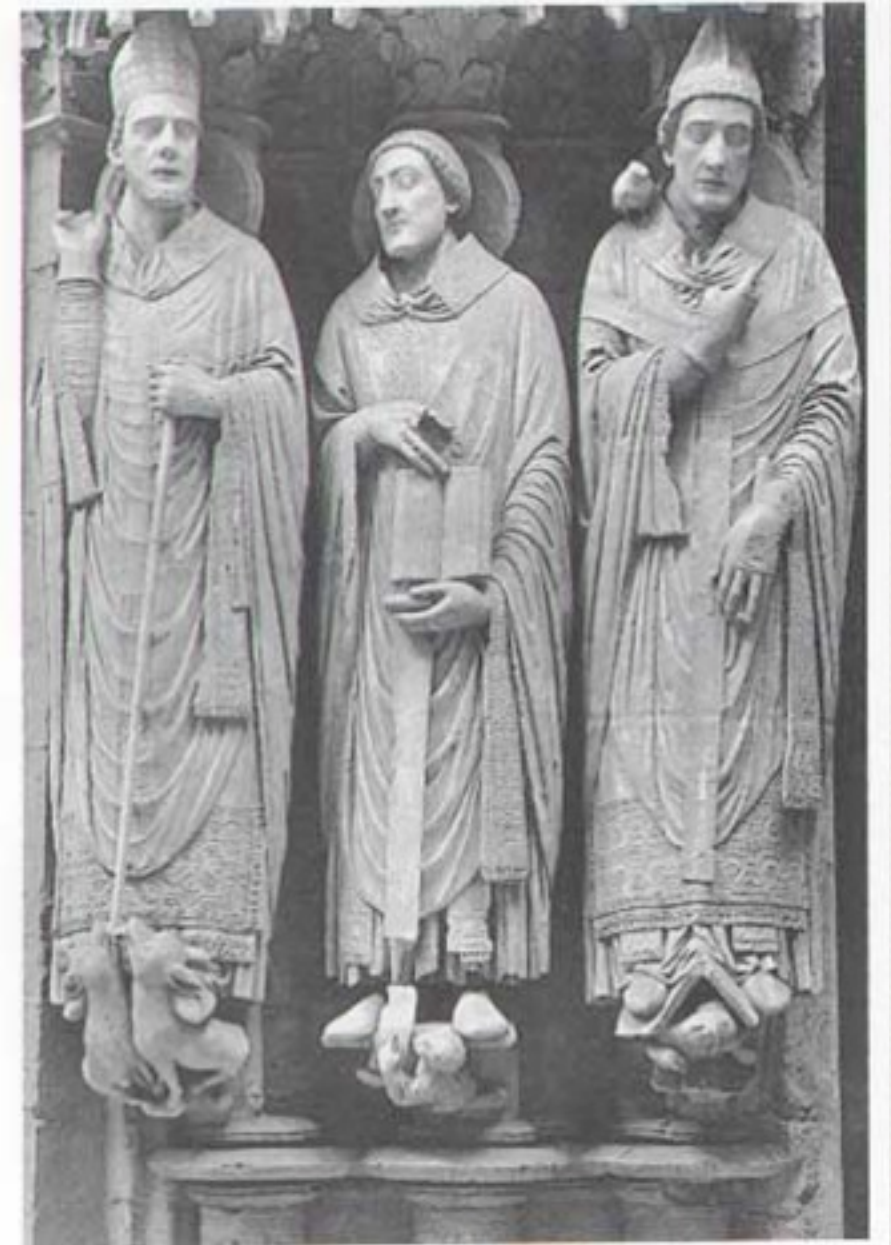
1220-36 FRANCE



GOTHIC SCULPTURE



**Sculpture
developed from
stiff,
disproportionate
and long figures
to a more
rounded style
later in Gothic
period**



GOTHIC ART: HEIGHT AND LIGHT

- **Buildings were technological daring and unprecedented in world architecture**
- **Ribbed vault and external supports called flying buttresses supported the walls**
- **Huge stained glass windows flooded the interior with light**
- **Pointed arch increased the reality and the illusion of greater height**
- **Buildings were so elaborate that construction literally took ages –600 years for the Cologne, Germany Cathedral**



SUMMARY

- **Art hardly died in the Middle Ages, but what came next was the **Renaissance** and art became lifelike again**

